

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A network device managing apparatus
comprising:

receiving means for receiving a search request
5 of network devices and identification information
from a data processing apparatus;

list forming means for forming a list of the
network devices;

holding means for holding the identification
10 information received by said receiving means and the
list formed by said list forming means in association
with each other;

extracting means for, if the search request and
the identification information are received by said
15 receiving means, comparing the list held by said
holding means in association with said identification
information with the list formed by said list forming
means after said search request was received by said
receiving means and extracting network devices which
20 have newly been found;

data forming means for forming data which
emphasizes the network devices extracted by said
extracting means and which is used to display the
list of the network devices; and

25 data transmitting means for transmitting the
data formed by said data forming means to said data
processing apparatus.

2. A network device managing apparatus which can communicate with network devices and a data processing apparatus, comprising:

receiving means for receiving a state request
5 of the network devices and identification information from said data processing apparatus;

list forming means for obtaining a state of each of said network devices and forming a list showing the states of the network devices;

10 holding means for holding the identification information received by said receiving means and the list formed by said list forming means in association with each other;

extracting means for, if the state request and
15 the identification information are received by said receiving means, comparing the list held by said holding means in association with said identification information with the list formed by said list forming means after said state request was received by said
20 receiving means and extracting network devices whose states have been changed;

data forming means for forming data which emphasizes the network devices extracted by said extracting means and which is used to display the
25 list showing the states of the network devices; and

data transmitting means for transmitting the data formed by said data forming means to said data

processing apparatus.

3. An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein
said list indicates at least one of information
5 regarding whether printing is possible or not and an
error state.

4. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
the data formed by said data forming means includes
10 an emphasis mark to emphasize.

5. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
the data formed by said data forming means includes
instruction data for allowing a device icon of the
15 data processing apparatus to be displayed in an
updated state.

6. A method comprising:
a first receiving step of receiving a request
20 and identification information from a data processing
apparatus;

a first list forming step of forming a list of
network devices in accordance with the request
received in said first receiving step;

25 a holding step of holding the identification
information received in said first receiving step and
the list formed in said first list forming step in

association with each other;

a second receiving step of receiving a request and identification information from the data processing apparatus;

5 a second list forming step of forming a list of network devices in accordance with the request received in said second receiving step;

a comparing step of comparing the list held in association with the same identification information
10 as the identification information received in said second receiving step with the list formed in said second list forming step in order to extract network devices which have newly been found;

a data forming step of forming data which
15 emphasizes the newly found network devices and which is used to display the list of the network devices; and

a data transmitting step of transmitting the data formed in said data forming step to said data
20 processing apparatus.

7. A method according to claim 6, wherein the data formed in said data forming step includes an emphasis mark to emphasize.

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8. A method according to claim 6, wherein the data formed in said data forming step includes

instruction data for allowing a device icon of the data processing apparatus to be displayed in an updated state.

5 9. A method comprising:

 a first receiving step of receiving a request and identification information from a data processing apparatus;

 a first list forming step of forming a list
10 showing states of network devices in accordance with the request received in said first receiving step;

 a holding step of holding the identification information received in said first receiving step and the list formed in said first list forming step in
15 association with each other;

 a second receiving step of receiving a request and identification information from the data processing apparatus;

 a second list forming step of forming a list
20 showing states of network devices in accordance with the request received in said second receiving step;

 a comparing step of comparing the list held in association with the same identification information as the identification information received in said
25 second receiving step with the list formed in said second list forming step in order to extract network devices whose states have been changed;

a data forming step of forming data which emphasizes the state-changed network devices and which is used to display the list showing the states of the network devices; and

5 a data transmitting step of transmitting the data formed in said data forming step to said data processing apparatus.

10 10. A method according to claim 9, wherein said list indicates at least one of information regarding whether printing is possible or not and an error state.

15 11. A method according to claim 9, wherein the data formed in said data forming step includes an emphasis mark to emphasize.

12. A program for controlling a computer so as to execute:

20 a first receiving step of receiving a request and identification information from a data processing apparatus;

a first list forming step of forming a list of network devices in accordance with the request
25 received in said first receiving step;

a holding step of holding the identification information received in said first receiving step and

the list formed in said first list forming step in association with each other;

a second receiving step of receiving a request and identification information from the data

5 processing apparatus;

a second list forming step of forming a list of network devices in accordance with the request received in said second receiving step;

a comparing step of comparing the list held in
10 association with the same identification information as the identification information received in said second receiving step with the list formed in said second list forming step in order to extract network devices which have newly been found;

15 a data forming step of forming data which emphasizes the newly found network devices and which is used to display the list of the network devices; and

a data transmitting step of transmitting the
20 data formed in said data forming step to said data processing apparatus.

13. A program for controlling a computer so as to execute:

25 a first receiving step of receiving a request and identification information from a data processing apparatus;

a first list forming step of forming a list showing states of network devices in accordance with the request received in said first receiving step;

a holding step of holding the identification
5 information received in said first receiving step and the list formed in said first list forming step in association with each other;

a second receiving step of receiving a request and identification information from the data
10 processing apparatus;

a second list forming step of forming a list showing states of network devices in accordance with the request received in said second receiving step;

a comparing step of comparing the list held in
15 association with the same identification information as the identification information received in said second receiving step with the list formed in said second list forming step in order to extract network devices whose states have been changed;

20 a data forming step of forming data which emphasizes the state-changed network devices and which is used to display the list showing the states of the network devices; and

a data transmitting step of transmitting the
25 data formed in said data forming step to said data processing apparatus.